

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 remain in the application. Claim 6 has been previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended.
2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 and 7-11 are not anticipated by Fujita (US 6,115,886).

Referring to claims 1 and 10, Fujita fails to disclose a hinge comprising a shaft part and a housing part, the shaft part being a one piece member having a first portion carrying a bearing surface, and a second portion extending radially beyond the bearing surface.

Fujita discloses a hinge that includes a slide cam 8, slidably mounted on a shaft 1, that engages another cam 6. As the hinge rotates cam members on both cams engage, causing slide cam 8 to slide axially with respect to shaft 1. Fujita does not disclose a shaft part being a one piece member having two portions. In fact, if the shaft and slide cam of Fujita were formed as one piece, the hinge would be rendered non-operational because when the cam surfaces engaged, slide cam 8 would no longer slide, preventing rotation of the hinge. Therefore, the components of Fujita's hinge must be constructed as individual pieces and cannot be formed as a one piece member.

Applicant respectfully submits that Fujita fails to disclose all the elements of Applicant's invention as recited by claims 1 and 10. Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action fails to specifically identify any reference to Fujita disclosing "the shaft part having a first portion lying on the common axis of rotation, the first portion carrying a bearing surface, and a

second portion extending radially beyond the bearing surface of the first portion."

In response to the Office Action, Applicant submits that Fujita does not disclose "the shaft part being a one piece member having a first portion lying on the common axis of rotation, the first portion carrying a bearing surface, and a second portion extending radially beyond the bearing surface of the first portion." Applicant finds no disclosure related to this feature. If the Examiner is of a different opinion, it would be helpful if the Examiner would identify specifically where disclosure of this feature may be found.

Because Fujita fails to disclose all the features of Applicant's claims 1 and 10, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 10 are novel over Fujita. In the absence of arguments showing that claims 1 and 10 are not inventive over Fujita, it follows that claims 1 and 10 are inventive over Fujita.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Fujita. Claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11 depend from claims 1 or 10 and therefore are also patentable over Fujita.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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May 12, 2003
Date

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